

MEETING MINUTES

Finance Committee

April 9, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Time – 7:00 P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Marge Bradshaw, Harold Wright, Tim Felter, Mary O'Donoghue, S. Jon Stumpf, Cindy Milne, Richard T. Howe and Mark Merritt.

Also present: Anthony J. Torrisi, Finance Director

MEETING MINUTES

1. 2/20/08 – Harold Wright moved, Mark Merritt seconded to approve as written. 9-0
2. 2/27/08 – Harold Wright moved, Dick Howe seconded to approve as written. 9-0
3. 3/17/08 – Harold Wright moved, Dick Howe seconded to approve as written. 7-0-2
4. 3/24/08 – Harold Wright moved, Mark Merritt seconded to approve as written. 9-0

WARRANT ARTICLE POSITIONS

Article 26 Trench Safety Regulations

After a brief discussion, Cindy Milne moved, Harold Wright seconded to add the following wording to the Finance Committee's recommendation for Article 26: that an appropriate fee be charged that covers the cost of inspections. The motion passed with one abstention. 8-0-1

Article 39 Open Space Land Acquisition

Ms. Marden asked committee members if they would be interested in changing their original recommendation of approval contingent upon a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion if the figure was lowered from \$1.5M to \$900,000. Consensus was reached for not changing the original position.

Article 4 Budget

Ms. Marden asked committee members if they would be interested in modifying their original recommendations for Article 4. Consensus was reached for not changing original positions. Concern was voiced over the three Board's inability to provide a more definitive budget plan to residents in time for Town Meeting. Discussion followed.

Committee members entered into a lengthy discussion to investigate whether or not budget cuts proposed by the School Department were necessary. Mr. Stumpf distributed a document titled FY2009 Budget Update. After review of the following line items committee members concurred that program cuts threatened by the School Department were not necessary: CIP savings, health insurance, hiring of additional teachers, SPED personnel and transportation, private school donations, department carry-over encumbrances, replacement of school principal, school expense account percentage reductions and leasing of the Town Hall. Mr. Stumpf offered to meet with the School Business Manager as soon as possible to present the adjustments made at this meeting to the FY2009 budget analysis he drafted.

SENIOR CENTER NUTRITION PROGRAM

Mr. Felter updated the Committee on a meeting he, Tony Torrisi and Marge Bradshaw attended with Elder Services Director Kathy Urquhart regarding nutritional programs offered through state mandated Titles V and III. Discussion followed. It was noted that Ms. Urquhart offered to track voluntary donations paid by seniors in order to identify the Town's share of subsidizing meals. Committee members were in agreement not to propose cuts to the program this year but to request the posting of signs in the Senior Center suggesting a raise in the meals donation from \$2.50 to \$3.00.

At the meeting's end, Ms. Marden and committee members thanked Jon Stumpf for his work on the budget cuts list distributed by him at this meeting as well as his time and effort spent on School Department budget issues. Ms. Marden also thanked Carolyn Lynch for her help with this year's Annual Finance Committee Report.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Finance Committee
2nd Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, April 16, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Regular Finance Committee
2nd Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, April 23, 2008
7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Lynch
Recording Secretary